

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Preliminarily Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection of claims 7-9 in view of Sakamoto. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1-3 have been amended. Claims 7-9 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-6, as amended, will be pending.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 5,726,268 to Sakamoto and its GB equivalent. Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims address this rejection. Specifically, Applicants have amended claims 1-3 to include the limitations from claims 7-9. For at least this reason Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

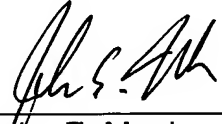
Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. The Examiner asserts that the claim is indefinite because it says the polymer is soluble without specifying a solvent. Applicants respectfully disagree. "Soluble" as understood by those of skill in the art refers to the fact that the polymers of the present invention are soluble in at least one solvent, as opposed to the "insoluble" polymers (which tend to be crosslinked polymers) known to those of skill in the art. Accordingly, the claims are definite. For at least this reason Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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